SOL RABKIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
75 HENRY STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201
522-7466

May 31, 1973

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick Md. 21701

Dear Harold,

This is not written on a beautiful sunny day because we've had only one such day this week, Tuesday, May 22, and the outlook is for more clouds and rain throughout the forthcoming holiday weekend. I'm very sorry to hear about Lil's fall though the sorrow is eased by the news that there was no serious damage. Give her our love and good wishes.

I find your comments about the inflexibility of not only our contemporaries but also our young adults of interest. When I was younger, especially very young (just out of college and law school) I was a fountain of certainty. I knew all the answers. Then as I grew older, got into my fifties and now my sixties, I found I had become a fountain of doubt. At first in those "good old days" I found it hard to say, "I don't know." Now I find I say it more and more often, seeing confusion and lack of sufficient knowledge on every question.

Having set forth the foregoing, I must now confess that I don't know whom you are referring to when you seek to remind me that I was inflexible when you mentioned to me the deplorable record of a man you knew must have the reputation of being as decent as he is competent and about whom I had a strong reaction when you commented on his record. And I have ~~always~~ never, even in my fountain of certainty days, refused to consider relevant established facts. Whatever discussion it is you are referring to, my stubbornness, if that it was, was as to whether I accepted the fact as established or whether I thought it relevant.

I find your plan to begin a Watergate book exciting. Any such book must make the point that the essential evil of the political activities made manifest in the Watergate incident and its concom-

SOL RABKIN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
75 HENRY STREET
BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11201
522-7466

Mr. Harold Weisberg May 31, 1973

itants of
/espionage and sabotage of the opposition aimed not just at interfering with its activity but at so confusing it as to bring about its choice of a weaker, rather than the strongest candidate, pollutes the well of politics at its source, thus undermining the voluntarism which is the foundation stone of our political system which professes to strive for freedom. On that basis the Nixon-type Watergate corruption is far more dangerous than the ordinary money-gain corruption of the Teapot Dome scandal. To analogize the two is to misjudge the comparative dangers and evils of the two scandals. Teapot Dome was just a modern reproduction of the Tweed Ring, Nucky Johnson, Boss Hague venal corruption for financial gain. The ugly schemes being uncovered as a result of the Watergate break-in reflect a corruption and diversion of the wellsprings of our political system. One important aspect of that corruption is the institutionalization of the pattern of influence and political plum peddling implicit in concealed political campaign contributions which the Nixon Republican Party political fund raising campaign involved. Of course, it was an extension of the patterns of his political campaigns in California. But its application to the national scene by him and his California campaign cohorts was a quantitative change which was also qualitative. It is no surprise that California where the initiative, referendum and recall techniques developed by populists there to overcome, they thought, the corruptions of representative government by allowing the people to operate politically directly, became the place where local business organizations, off-shoots of public relations agencies, could guaranty for a price to put any special-interest serving initiative proposition on the ballot and for a further price to get it through a referendum vote.

So much for "wise" observations. I would like to hear the details of your various suits against the DJ. And, of course, I wish you well in everything.

Sincerely,

Sol

Sol Rabkin

SR:mef